

BRAINSTORMS

with Ferrin Cox

We are getting a good bit of rain lately, but not yet enough to make up for the months of dry conditions of the past several years. Most area lakes and ponds are still on the low side, some are still extremely low. Farmers are grinning because the regular rains are doing wonders for their crops.

"Holocaust embedded in U.S. curriculum." We received an article with this headline through the magic of the internet a few days ago. Someone had spent time and money to find out just how much was being taught in how many schools on this subject. It must have been a well written headline because we stopped and read the article. Going into the reading and even afterwards, the glaring question in our mind is, "Why Not." Anyone who has ever read about those massive killings or seen the pictures will shudder. Then those of us who have walked through the camps, with their gas rooms and/or ovens for destroying humans by the thousands... well we know. We can stand up without fear of ridicule and support the continued teaching of the facts of this horrible part of world history. The majority of those killed in the death camps were Jewish, but they didn't have an exclusive on it. Apparently, once they had killed a few thousand humans of any design, it got easier and easier to kill many others, regardless of how minor their transgressions against Hitler's ideas.

It is amazing to read about America's "secret" plans to oust Saddam Hussein from Iraq. This week the secret is that the U.S. is considering two plans and both have problems. However, those of us in on the secret know that the military planners are considering a third option (still secret of course) in which they combine the best of the two other plans. They will do a major air attack but will use local opposition forces and only 50,000 to 75,000 good-guy (American) troops on the ground for the invasion. These 75,000 would mostly be to secure the country after Hussein had been ousted. The first two (secret) options are (1) massive air attack and leave the rest to the local opposition forces. (2) massive air attack and using from a half million to 750,000 good guy troops for the invasion and later occupation.

Now as true Americans, you need to remember that this is secret information that was only available on all the American news networks and newspapers plus the worldwide internet outlets. Actually, this may all be by design of those who like to play mind games with Hussein and his folks to keep them off guard long enough to become weary of watching and waiting for us to come again.

Another weird lawsuit, this one from South Florida. A quadriplegic has sued a strip club for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He says the lap dance room does not have wheelchair access. The club manager is quoted as indicating the man could have access to lap dancing in other parts of the club. We can only guess what the lap dance room is or does, but further reading indicates this man is very mad at something or someone. He also has a suit pending against another strip club plus an Orlando restaurant and a motorcycle shop. The man's name is... Law.

The debate over the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance continues, but not as the roar it was when the California court first ruled the words unconstitutional. Surveys have shown that 75% to 80% of Americans think we should continue the Pledge "as is." This surprises us because we would have thought the numbers in favor of keeping the "under God" would have been much higher. Americans don't regularly attend church in high percentages, but still profess to be believers in very high numbers.

Why? While the world watches and talks about the suicide bombers and other Middle East disasters; hunts for terrorists cell members in the United States and around the world; little girls are being snatched away from their homes at an alarming rate! We say at an alarming rate because one is entirely too many, and America is seeing far more than one of these terrible events. The latest is a five year old girl in California reportedly snatched from right in front of her home in broad daylight by a man who told the child he needed help finding his lost dog. That is an old, old ruse used by con men for many years, but good or bad, it would probably work on over 95% of America's tender and innocent children.

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of July 8, 2002, through July 14, 2002. They were: Jasmine V. Wisdom, Shirley Dean, Celia Allen, Ricky Carpenter, Jeanette Harrison, Theo Mauldin, Shariya Tyson, Peggy Pouncey, H.K. Davis, Lillie Mae Wade, Ricardo Cooke, Jean Paul, Trisha Mitchell and Grady Barefoot.

Persons discharged during the same time period were: Shirley Dean, Ruth Bryant, Annie Slawson, Marshall Miller, Theo Mauldin, Jasmine Wisdom, Celia Allen, Ricky Carpenter, Peggy Pouncey, Shariya Tyson, Lillie Mae Wade and Jeanette Harrison.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year
6 Months - \$9, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax
6 months - \$10
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

EDITORIAL

Spontaneous behavior equals a weekend of fun

by Linda Hodge, Editor

All last week, my beach buddies (Dawn and Wesley DeVane) and I planned one of our weekend getaways to the Emerald Coast; however, the skies grumbled and Friday afternoon the trip was postponed.

We were really looking forward to this trip since it would be the first since Wesley had purchased his new boat, but our excitement dwindled as we thought it would be at least another week before we could get some boating exposure time. So, we wondered what could we do instead to have some fun.

With the dark clouds above

and rain beginning to fall, the three of us jumped in Dawn's car and headed to Ozark's for supper. With security being the way it is at Ft. Rucker, we chose to travel via Hwy. 27. On the way back, Dawn decided she didn't like driving Hwy. 27, and she said she wanted to go through Ft. Rucker. Unfortunately, the rain was pouring very heavily when we arrived at the base entrance where the security check takes place.

Usually, there wouldn't be anything funny about this process as I realize it is a very important check being conducted due to the events of last September, but nothing with

Dawn falls under the usual category.

With the rain pouring, the security officer informed us that one of us would have to get out of the car and open the trunk and hood for him to inspect. Immediately, Wesley nominated Dawn for the job. After all, it was her idea for us to travel this way!

Lucky for her, the officer was nice and offered to get her umbrella out of the trunk of the car since she could pop it open from inside the vehicle. With that taken care of, she exited the vehicle and went to open the hood.

As you can imagine, Wesley and I were immensely enjoying this event as we laughed at Dawn trying to hold the umbrella and open the hood of the car at the same time. After several minutes and with the help of the officer, she managed to complete the procedure, and we were allowed to proceed with our journey.

This event turned out to be more pleasurable for some than others, and the two of us who remained in the vehicle for the inspection received a few threats from the car's operator.

During the trip back to Elba, we began to speculate that maybe the rainy weather would move out of the area overnight and allow us still to head south Saturday morning; however, the weather man assured us this would not be the case as we watched the evening's news.

Much to our surprise, Saturday brought good weather locally, and the afternoon found us headed to Opg to take a boat ride on the lake. Personally, this was a first for me since as far as I had no idea Opg had such a lake as the one at the Frank Jackson State Park.

It was a fun filled afternoon as we rode up, down and around the lake. Even Dawn and Wesley's dog, Buford, got in on the fun as he took the joyride with us. I will admit, though, that I remained in the boat when my companions chose to jump into the water for a quick swim.

THURSDAY, JULY 11 - River stage - 7:09 feet (6:09 a.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to 360 Dr. Roberts Dr. (1:45 p.m.). Eight in progress reported at Dunham St. (2:25 p.m.). Disturbance reported at 781 N. Clanton Ave. (10:05 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 - River stage - 5.59 feet (6:20 a.m.). Routine activity.

THURSDAY, JULY 11 - River stage - 4:05 feet (6:16 a.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to County Rd. 205 (12:29 p.m.). Alarm activated at 996 Hwy. 203 (9:41 p.m.). Disturbance reported at 602 Kendrick Apts. (9:56 p.m.). Provider reported at 10734 Hwy. 87 (11:46 p.m.).

FRIDAY, JULY 12 - River stage - 4:64 feet (6:10 a.m.). Report of loud music on Putnam St. (8:18 p.m.). Routine activity.

SATURDAY, JULY 13 - River stage - 3:72 feet (6:07 a.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to 2805 Taylor Mill Road, Room 2 (6:27 p.m.). Routine activity.

SUNDAY, JULY 14 - Disturbance (in progress) reported at Beaver Dam Creek Bridge on Kinston Hwy. (3:14 a.m.). Civil disturbance (fighting) reported at 636 Lee St. (10:14 p.m.).

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III - THE CROCODILE HUNTER (PG)
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No Pases - No Wed. Night Discounts

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ABSOLUTE AUCTION - Sat. July 20th, 10 a.m. Steelflow, 1313 Frazier St., Athens, AL. Cat. lists, press, tables, grinders, welders, etc. For brochure: (205) 945-0408. Asset Liquidators, Cydette Hughes AL 1275 (R)

ABSOLUTE AUCTION - Tues.

July 23rd, 10 a.m. Southern States Express, 2600 Republic Blvd. (Pratt City, Birmingham, 21 trucks & 24 vans, 48" Cat for brochure: (205) 945-0408. Asset Liquidators, Cydette Hughes AL 1275 (R)

PUBLIC AUCTION - Saturday

July 27th, 9:00 a.m. H & D Equipment Sales, commercial real estate (Pell City, AL). 1 acre +/- w/ 400 sq. ft. building, doors, extra vans, back hoist, dump trucks, bucket trucks, tube trucks, trenchers, compressors, shop tools, office trailers and much more. Call for brochure: Americana Auctioneers, LLC, (256) 927-5263. Ron Baldwin 8600.

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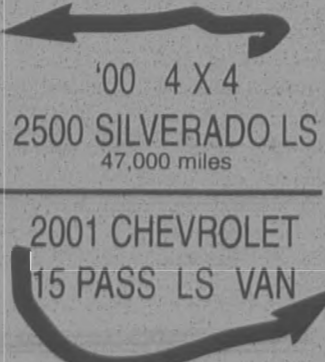
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Volume 106, Number 6

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Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 25, 2002

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 3 Adv. Inserts

Commission votes down rotation motion

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission conducted a routine meeting Monday, July 22, during which the issue of rotation to receive the most comments from commissioners concerned a matter first brought before the commission earlier this month.

During the previous meeting of the commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Bernest Brooks to begin a rotation of the commission chairmanship to allow the commission from each district an opportunity to serve as chairman. Of the current commissioners, the commissioner representing District Four, five and six have not served as chairman. Brooks' motion indicated that the rotation of the chairmanship would begin with those districts in that order. He said once the commissioners from those districts had been given an opportunity to serve as chairman, the rotation would begin with District 1 and continue consecutively through District 7. After a great deal of discussion and with a majority vote of the commission, the matter was tabled during the July 22 meeting.

On Monday, however, Brooks made a motion take the issue off the table to allow a vote on his original motion. He received it second from Commissioner Kaye Lewis, and the motion to remove the original motion from the table was approved.

Friday's meeting will be held at the Trojan Center Theatre

of establishing a rotation for the commission chairmanship, several commissioners expressed their thoughts.

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple said the problem he has with the idea of a rotation is there are seven commissioners and only four years to a term. He said there is no way every commissioner would have an opportunity to serve as chairman during that time span.

"Having been chairman, I feel the chairman needs the majority support of the commission, and that may not be the case with the

rotation," said Commissioner Linda Westbrook.

Brooks disagreed saying he feels the commission needs to extend an opportunity to every commissioner to serve as chairman if they so desire.

Commissioner Robert Stephens said he would not be voting for any particular commissioner to be chairman in regards to the motion. Instead, Stephens said his vote would be for the people of each district.

Please See CCC, Page 6

Southeast Alabama Regional drought meeting planned for Friday, July 26

Residents in a 14-county area of Southeast Alabama will be asked for their comments on drought-related issues affecting their region and the state during a meeting Friday, July 26, 10 a.m., in Troy.

Counties in the region - one of seven in Alabama - are Baldwin, Bullock, Butler, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike and Russell.

"Previous droughts have devastated crops and endangered livestock in rural areas while forcing water cuts and rationing in urban areas," said Gov. Don Siegelman. "Although we can't prevent droughts, we certainly can take steps to lessen the negative impact they can have on our lives."

Friday's meeting will be held at the Trojan Center Theatre (formerly the Adams Center) on the campus of Troy State University. It is part of a statewide effort initiated by Siegelman to develop a plan preparing for and reducing the impacts of drought.

Siegelman formed the Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team in May by Executive Order 70 to advise the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Office of Water Resources (ADECA OWR) in developing and implementing drought-related programs and to help Alabama avoid drought-related problems experienced in other states.

At the meeting, citizens will be asked to comment on ways to conserve water and suggest strategies to deal with water shortages.

Yellowjackets find home on Coffee County road

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Warning!!! A quiet little country dirt road in the north-eastern part of Coffee County near the Nexbia community has been invaded.

Coffee County Road 332 appears to be uneventful with no houses located on the road, but a closer look reveals thousands upon thousands of one brand of creature living inside a nest built along the clay embankment of that road.

Yellowjackets have picked the little dirt road as their residence and have built one of the largest nests ever seen by many of those who have had an opportunity to see it firsthand.

Upon investigating Yellowjackets through information made available via the Internet, it seems as though the clay embankment of this road-way serves as an ideal home for the little creatures.

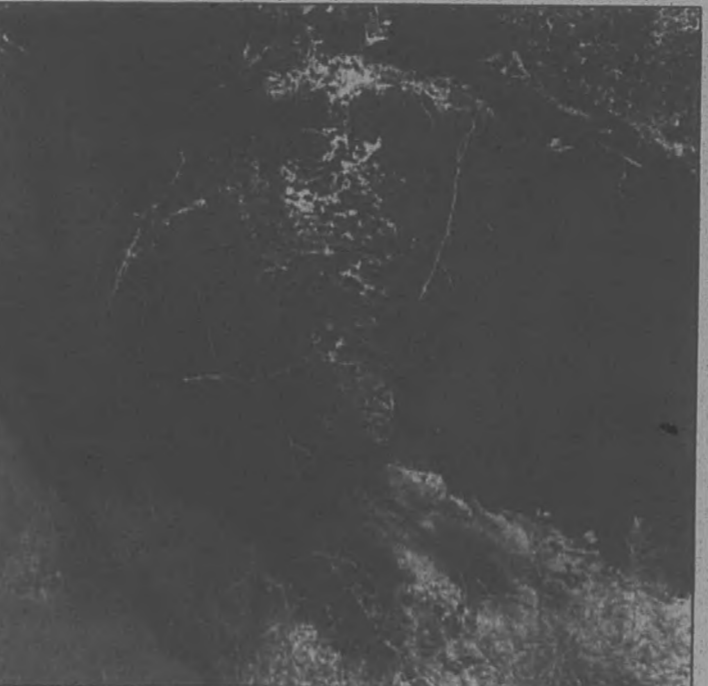
Yellowjackets chew bits of wood or leaves to make "paper" nests which can be constructed hanging from a tree branch, a hole in a tree, a hole in the ground, under the eaves of a house, in the attic, or in any other suitable place that is dry and is not greatly disturbed.

And with the end of July nearing, it seems as though the time has arrived for Yellowjackets to reach their greatest population time of August and September. Therefore, one can probably expect to see more and more of the little creatures flying around during the next couple of months.

With that said, a little Yellowjackets education might be the best ticket to avoid an attack, especially for anyone planning a trip down County Road 332.

Yellowjackets are considered to be wasps with a definite waist. They are commonly mistaken for bees but can be identified by the lack of hair. Also, Yellowjackets generally have either bright yellow or black markings on their tail.

Another notable difference



This extremely large Yellowjacket nest was recently located on Coffee County Road 332. This spot is considered to be highly dangerous as it is unknown exactly how many Yellowjackets are residing in this nest; however, the number is speculated to be very high seeing as that the nest appears to be almost 3 feet tall.

between a Yellowjacket and bee is their stinging ability. Yellowjackets have a lance-like stinger and can sting repeatedly whereas a bee has a barb like stinger and can only sting once.

Generally speaking, a person who encounters a Yellowjacket is safe from being stung unless that person begins swatting at the Yellowjacket. The Yellowjacket is considered to be aggressive by nature and will readily attack if it senses a threat to itself or its nest.

By the way, Yellowjackets not only have the ability to sting, but they can also bite. Experts indicate that people have different reactions to a Yellowjackets sting, and it can be more dangerous for some than others; however, a recent survey did indicate that between 5 and 1.0 percent of the population may be allergic to Yellowjackets venom.

The good news...there are medicines that can be used to aid those who are allergic to a Yellowjacket sting. Even more tenderly is suggested to be used by those who are not allergic to the sting as a way to extinguish the pain.

As for getting rid of Yellowjackets, there are many different insecticides which can be purchased to help control the creatures. However, it is important to follow the directions on proper use to prevent stimulating the aggressiveness of the Yellowjackets which could result in stinging.

Probably the best advice for dealing with a Yellowjacket that is in close proximity is to simply be still and remain calm. After all, there is an old saying that "one who stands still and shoots an aerial nest with a shotgun need not fear, instead it is the person that rapidly runs away who gets all the stings."

As for disposing of nests, such as the one located on County Road 332, the best solution might be to stay away from the nest and wait until winter when the number of Yellowjackets will be very low as the queen and a few others are generally the only ones to make it through the cold weather months.

Elba Marching Tiger Band preparing for 60th season



Members of the Elba Marching Tiger Band returned to the practice field this week for their annual band camp. Throughout the week, the band members have been working on learning their music, dance steps and routine for the upcoming marching season. Band camp actually began last week with "Rookie Camp" which is designed to teach the band's newcomers the fundamentals of marching. During this upcoming season, the Elba Marching Tiger Band will be celebrating its 60th marching season, and all members are looking forward to another award winning and fun filled season. Also this year, band supporters are being offered an opportunity to join the Marching Black and Gold Club. One of the many benefits of joining the club includes receiving a free combo meal at each of the five home football games. Anyone interested in becoming a Marching Black and Gold Club member should contact Sarah Corder at 897-0273.

During Elba City Council meeting

Equipment purchase approved for police department

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

At the meeting, citizens will be asked to comment on ways to conserve water and suggest strategies to deal with water shortages.

The first item was the retiree cost of living raise which had been mentioned at the last meeting. Mayor James Grimes explained the resolution, as it was approved by the Alabama legislature, and exactly what it would mean to the city budget and to the retired employees.

The council approved the resolution which will cost \$154,199 per month, beginning with the next budget year and assuming that no retiree dies or more are added to the list.

The council also approved the purchase of a new computer system for the police department. There will be computers for each of the two on-duty dispatchers and three in other work areas. Police Chief R. W. Whitworth explained that it would be necessary to make some of the changes because the NCIC folks are changing the way their work is done, and

Elba's computers must stay compatible with this system. He said the NCIC upgrade is not a "wait or" but a must. He added that several other agencies utilize this system and help pay for it, so the total outlay is not as bad as it first appears. He said it will cost about \$10,700 for this entire computer upgrade. With this upgrade, police officers will begin to input and retrieve incident reports from the computer, rather than spending hours looking through files and boxes of old records, some dating back to before the flood.

Council members questioned this expenditure because it is not in the current budget, but Grimes explained that he thought it could be squeezed into this year's budget, considering that the other agencies pay part of the costs involved.

The council also voted to buy six new portable radios for the police department. This matter had been tabled several months ago to allow time to research the various radios and technology on the market. To fully replace the walkie-talkie units currently in use would mean the purchase of 20 of the new units; however, the decision of the council was

to phase in the new radios over a period of several years.

Grimes reviewed the financial statement with council members and noted that revenue was \$7,000 under projections but that was due to a sales tax check not arriving until after the first of the month. Expenses are \$47,000 above projections but the mayor explained that the city had prepaid a sewer bond issue and purchased the two new police cars, when only one was in the budget. Taking out the above unbudgeted items, the budget would be only about \$6,000 over projections, the mayor said.

The city is moving forward with seeking bids on some more street resurfacing. This project will include the streets in Morrow Village and then as far as possible in Kennedy Estates.

Council members were told that the housing authority would pay the cost of resurfacing the Morrow Village parking spaces, to the tune of \$21,000. The gasoline excise tax money which has been applied as far as possible on the streets in Kennedy Estates.

Grimes acknowledged that there are many streets in Elba which need resurfacing, but this gasoline excise tax money (which can only be used for street work) will only go so far and the other streets will have to wait until the next round.

Council member Ronnie Hammond asked about some needed grass cutting on right-of-ways and was told that if they hadn't been cut within the last few days, they would be trimmed in the very near future.

Area Happenings

COFFEE COUNTY JUMPSTART The Coffee County Schools (Kinston, New Brockton and Zion Chapel) announce Jumpstart for Monday and Tuesday, July 29 & 30, from 8-11 a.m. Jumpstart is a two day program that allows incoming kindergarten students an orientation opportunity before the beginning of school. Parents are asked to bring their child to the school library on Monday, July 29, and remain for a meeting with the principal and their child's teacher.

ELBA HIGH SCHOOL NEWS The schedule for Elba High students to pick up schedules, purchase parking permits and rent lockers for the coming school year is as follows: Monday, July 29 - Seniors; Tuesday, July 30 - Juniors; Wednesday, July 31 - Sophomores and Freshmen; Thursday, August 1 - Eighth grade. Office hours for this week will be 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7th grade orientation will be Thursday, Aug. 1, at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Students and parents are encouraged to attend. Students will pick up schedules, rent lockers and establish meal accounts. They will also have a guided tour of the high school.

ZION CHAPEL YOUTH FOOTBALL registration will be held Thursday, Aug. 1, from 5-7 p.m. at the Zion Chapel School complex.

ELL THE BOOT The Elba Volunteer Fire Department will conduct its 2nd Annual MTA Boot Drive during the morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 3. The money raised through this effort will be donated to the Elba Volunteer Fire Department.

ALERT

The Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department is currently selling reflective address markers in their fire coverage area, however, according to Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moses, inspectors are also attempting to sell these markers door to door. He said the only legitimate door to door sales will be done by Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department members who will be delivering fire department vehicles. Anyone who attempts to sell these markers door to door is a violation of the Coffee County Sheriff's Department's policy.